

INTRODUCTION

- A. ESSENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE** (*Westminster Confession & RPTestimony* chp.27; *Larger Catechism* Q.161-177; *Shorter Catechism*, Q.91-97; *reformedvoice.com* outlines & audio of sermons in this series)
- B. REQUESTS FOR ISSUES, TOPICS, PASSAGES, ETC.** (send to *oswegorpc@hotmail.com*; 315-343-7112)
- C. FOOLISHNESS OF SACRAMENTS** (1Cor.1:21f; 11:24f /Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14f /2Kngs.5:10f; Acts 22:16 /1Cor.1:24)

I. DEFINITION OF A SACRAMENT

A. THEOLOGICAL TERM: A SACRED THING

- 1. general: a common element of life set apart for a special use & purpose (sacred)
- 2. specific: a visible element used in a way commanded by God to picture His promises in Christ (2Cor.1:20; 1Cor.10:1-4; Acts 2:38; Mt.26:28)

B. SCRIPTURAL TEACHING: A MEANS OF SAVING GRACE

- 1. Old Covenant: the whole sacrificial system (Hebrews, esp. 9:1-5; 10:19-25)
- 2. New Covenant: washing; meal of bread & wine (Acts 2:38; 1Cor.11:23f /cleansings; peace offerings, Passover)

II. DESCRIPTIONS OF THE NEW COVENANT SACRAMENTS

A. BAPTISM

- 1. visible element: water (Acts 8:36; 10:47; amount, mode not specified)
- 2. commandment as a sign (Mt.28:19,20)
- 3. Gospel promises declared (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1Pt.3:21; see Ezk.36:35)

B. THE LORD'S SUPPER

- 1. visible elements: bread & wine (1Cor.11:23-26; see Mt.26:26f; Mk.14:22f; Lk.22:17f)
- 2. commandment as a sign (1Cor.11:23-26; see Mt.26:26f; Mk.14:22f; Lk.22:17f)
- 3. Gospel promises declared (Mt.26:28; Heb.9:15; 1Cor.11:24,25; see 2Cor.5:21; 9:10)

C. SUMMARY OF PROMISES PICTURED

- 1. the forgiveness of sins (water & wine; Acts 2:38 & Mt.26:28; see 2Cor.5:21a; Rom.4:7)
- 2. the givingness of righteousness (water & bread; Acts 2:38; Gal.5:13-26; Tt.3:5-7; Rom.4:3; 2Cor.5:21b)

D. OTHER SUPPOSED SACRAMENTS (e.g., Roman Catholic, Orthodox)

- 1. no visible element (penance; orders)
- 2. no commandment for use *as* a picture of *these* promises (confirmation; anointing of sick; marriage)

III. FUNCTION OF THE NEW COVENANT SACRAMENTS: SIGN & SEAL (Rom.4:11)

A. SIGN: TO POINT US TO THESE PROMISES IN CHRIST (Rom.4:11; 7&3; 1f /store sign)

B. SEAL: TO CONFIRM *THESE PROMISES* IN CHRIST TO US (Rom.4:11; see Jer.32:10; Mt.27:66; see Heb.6:13f; Mk.2:5,10; Jn.6:35f,1f; 9:5f /certificate)

IV. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW COVENANT SACRAMENTS

A. SUBSTANCE: ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CHRIST (1Jn1:7; 2Cor5:21 /1Cor.11:24f w/Col.3:9&10; 5f&12f)

B. POWER: APPLICATION OF HOLY SPIRIT (Tt.3:5f; 1Cor.2:4(1:21) /Mt3:11; 1Cor12:13; Eph3:16; 1Th1:5)

C. PREREQUISITE: THE WORD OF GOD (Mt.28:18-20; 1Cor.11:23-34; see Acts 2:41,42; i.e., sign, seal)

D. NECESSITY: WORD W/OUT SACRAMENT IS DEAD (see Jms.2:17,26; Acts2:42; Mt28:18f; 1Co11:24f)

E. MEANS: FAITH (Heb.4:2; see Acts 2:38,41; 16:14f; Eph.2:5-10; Lk.11:13; 1Cor.2:14-16; 12:13; 1Th.2:13)

V. WHAT YOU MUST DO IN RESPONSE TO THESE TRUTHS

A. HEAR THE WORD SO YOUR FAITH WOULD GERMINATE & GROW! (Rom.10:17; 2Tm.3:14-17; Heb.5:12f; 1Pt.2:2; see Lk.11:13)

B. SEE THE SACRAMENTS SO YOUR FAITH WOULD BE CONFIRMED & STRENGTHENED! (Rom.4:11; see Jer.32:10; Mt.27:66; see Heb.6:13f; Mk.2:5,10; Jn.6:35f,1f; 9:5f /vs. doubt, weakness)

C. USE THE SIMPLE IMAGERY OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS! (see 2Cor.5:21; Rom.3:9f; 4:7,3; debts of sin & dues of righteousness)

D. YOU WOULD DO MUCH MORE, SO DO AT LEAST THIS! (2Kngs.5:13; Acts 22:16; see Rom.10:6-13)